



Course Vehicle Repair
Section: Automotive Technology



James Rumsey
Technical Institute

Tire Safety Inspection

What You Will Do

inspect tires by locating recommended tire pressure, checking tire pressure, reading tire sidewall information, and measuring tread depth.

Materials You Will Need

- Parked family vehicle
- Tire pressure gauge
- Penny
- Paper and pencil
- Flashlight (optional)

Why Tire Inspections are Important

Automotive technicians inspect tires regularly because tires affect:

- Safety
- Fuel economy
- Braking distance
- Vehicle handling
- Tire life

Step 1: Read Tire Sidewall

Look on tire sidewall for numbers like 225/65R17 102H

What those numbers mean:

225 = Tire width (mm)

65 = Aspect ratio

R = Radial tire

17 = Wheel diameter (inches)

102 = Load rating

H = Speed rating

Write your tire size: _____

Step 2: Find Recommended Tire Pressure

Read the manufacturer sticker because the sidewall shows **maximum** pressure, not usually **recommended** daily pressure.

The manufacturer sticker is usually found:

- Driver's door jamb
- Inside driver door
- Glove box
- Owner's manual

Record: Front Tire PSI: _____ Rear Tire PSI: _____

Step 3: Check Tire Pressure

The car needs to have been parked for at least a couple of hours. When you drive a car, the wheels turning causes the tires to heat up. This increases tire pressure.

1. Remove valve cap.
2. Press tire gauge firmly onto valve stem.
3. Read PSI.
4. Compare to recommended PSI.
5. Replace valve cap.

Tire	Recommended PSI	Actual PSI	Add Air?
Front Left			
Front Right			
Rear Left			
Rear Right			

Step 4: Measure Tread Depth

Insert a penny into the tread groove with Lincoln's head pointing down. If the tread is shallower than the distance from the edge of the penny to the top of Abe's head, the tread may worn. It may be time to replace the tire.

Record your findings:

Tire	Tread Good/Low
Front Left	
Front Right	
Rear Left	
Rear Right	

Report your findings to the car's owner. Try checking the tire pressure in the morning and again in the afternoon. Compare how temperature effects tire pressure.